

CHILD CUSTODY PROTECTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 2002

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong concerns about H.R. 476. I held the same concerns when I voted against this legislation during the 106th Congress, as did many of my colleagues in the House and Senate. No effort has been made to address the valid problems with this bill in the nearly three years since we last took it up on the House floor.

This restrictive legislation would isolate a young woman at a time when she needs support the most. I absolutely believe that young women should involve parents in important life decisions. In fact, most young women do involve a parent when making a decision about abortion, however, that option is not always available. Incest, abuse and other serious family problems are a sobering reality for many in our country. In that case, a young woman should be encouraged to consult another trusted adult, such as another family member, a medical provider or a religious counselor—this bill makes that virtually impossible and even criminal.

Under this bill, grandparents, older siblings, religious leaders, and other responsible adults could face prosecution, imprisonment, fines, or civil suits for coming to the aid of a young woman during her time of need. The true absurdity of this legislation can be summed up in this astonishing example: A father molests his young daughter and the young woman goes to her grandmother for help. Should the young woman obtain an abortion in another state, this bill could give the father standing to sue in a civil court and could make the grandmother liable for \$100,000 in damages and a year in prison.

In addition, this bill is dangerously overbroad. The law would apply to anyone having peripheral involvement in the minor's abortion, even if the person was not acquainted with the bill's legal provisions or even aware of the minor crossing state lines.

I supported a Motion to Recommit that would have sent this flawed bill back to the committee with the recommendation that the legislation exempt grandparents and adult siblings from the bill. This Motion would have provided young women with at least a minimal safety net of family members. It failed by a vote of 173–246.

Mr. Speaker, I will continue to oppose legislation that will endanger young women's lives and health by isolating those who cannot involve a parent. We should encourage young women to turn to other family members when they cannot turn to their parents, and Congress has no business criminalizing that.

PHILIP E. RUPPE POST OFFICE
BUILDING

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 2002

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to express my thoughts about a gentleman of

distinction, who served his constituents from Northern Michigan for six terms. Philip Edward Ruppe was born in Houghton County, Michigan where his family lived since the 1870's. He attended Central Michigan University and the University of Michigan for two years after which he received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Yale University in 1948. He served our Nation as a lieutenant (junior grade) in the Navy during the Korean conflict.

After his service in the Navy, Mr. Ruppe became the president of the Bosch Brewing Company for ten years, served as director of the Houghton National Bank, the Commercial National Bank of L'Anse and R. L. Polk and Company.

In January 1967, the people of Northern Michigan elected Mr. Ruppe as their representative until 1979, when he ran for the United States Senate. As a member of the United States House of Representatives, Congressman Ruppe served on the Committee on Merchant Marines and Fisheries and was ranking member of the Interior and Insular Affairs Committees. He dedicated his time to constituent services and economic development in the Upper Peninsula.

I want to recognize and thank the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. STUPAK) who thoughtfully introduced H.R. 1374, designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 600 Calumet Street in Lake Linden, Michigan, as the "Philip E. Ruppe Post Office". It is most appropriate to name a post office to honor Philip Ruppe who represented his constituents most ably during his tenure in Congress. Congressman Ruppe and his late wife, Loret Ruppe, who was a well-loved and respected director of the Peace Corps and Ambassador to Norway, were dedicated parents to their daughters and imparted the importance of public service to them.

I have been privileged to know both Loret and Phil. Phil still resides in Bethesda, Maryland, and I am delighted to have him as a constituent and wish him the best in life.

PENSION SECURITY ACT OF 2002

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 2002

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to oppose this legislation, and in support of the Democratic alternative.

Millions of working Americans are watching what we do here today. They are watching to see just whose side we're on. They want to see whether we will do something to prevent another Enron. They want to know whether their retirement savings are truly safe.

With this bill, we know who the Republican leadership would protect. This bill is a get out of jail free card. It doesn't protect pensions, it protects those who would prosper on the backs of their employees.

This bill keeps employees off pension boards. It limits the ability of employees to collect damages when the misconduct of company officials costs them their life savings. It forces employees to keep stock matches in 401(k) plans for three years after each match, while executives are held to no such limit. This bill even allows companies to offer investment advice from the same firm that administers the company's 401(k) plan.

Mr. Speaker, in light of the thousands of Enron employees who have worthless stock certificates to show for their years of hard work, this bill is an outrage.

The Democratic alternative provides real protection. Employees should have the same control over their retirement accounts as executives, and should have the same access to unbiased, independent investment advice. Our bill levels the playing field between executives and employees, giving employees full control of their retirement accounts. And, executives would be held fully accountable when they violate pension rights.

Mr. Speaker, you say you're on the side of the American people. But, as the saying goes, actions speak louder than words, and your bill hurts the working families of this Nation. Vote no on the underlying bill and yes on the Democratic alternative.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES
ON H.R. 2646, FARM SECURITY
ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. MAX SANDLIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 2002

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, I commend the Agriculture Committee Chairman COMBEST and Ranking Member STENHOLM for the skill and hard work they have put into crafting the Farm Security Act. I would also like to commend the Conferees of the House Agricultural Committee for their continued efforts to work toward agreement on a farm bill that is good for America's farmers. I want to thank them for the great sensitivity to and understanding of the needs of our nation's farmers.

This motion to instruct goes against that understanding and, thus, I rise in strong opposition to this motion and urge all my colleagues to vote against it.

The presentation of this motion is unnecessarily repetitive in nature. The Members of the House of Representatives have already voted on this issue. During House consideration of the Farm Security Act, an amendment containing this language failed by a bipartisan vote of 238–187.

Mr. Speaker, one thing I can count on hearing every time I return home is that our farmers need help this year. Our farming families put everything they have on the line every year to feed America. America's families never got the economic boon that swept the nation in the late 1990's.

This year, good weather worldwide has created commodity surpluses and driven down the price that farmers get for their crops. The U.S. dollar also remains strong relative both to our competitors and customers, making U.S. crops more expensive and less competitive. U.S. producers continue to compete on an uneven playing field, facing much higher tariffs on our exports to other countries than other countries face on their exports to us.

The goal of our farm policy should be to provide a safety net so the American agricultural sector survives through these difficult times. This motion to recommit would limit payments for commodity programs and is a slap in the face to those families.

Furthermore, this motion unjustly deters the Conferees efforts to resolve funding levels for conservation and research programs. This motion claims to increase conservation programs as if it is a new idea, when, in fact, the Conferees have already allotted an eighty-percent increase in funding.

I urge my colleagues to reject this unnecessary and disruptive motion and to stand aside and let the Conferees continue their hard work on the conference committee.

IN SUPPORT OF THE COMMISSION
OF THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD
MEDAL ON BEHALF OF DR.
DOROTHY I. HEIGHT

HON. DIANE E. WATSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 2002

Ms. WATSON of California. Mr. Speaker, for two hundred and twenty-six years, the United States Congress has expressed its highest regard for exemplary and extraordinary accomplishments by awarding the Congressional Gold Medal to its most outstanding citizens. It is now time to include among these laureates Dr. Dorothy Height, lifelong social worker, internationally known and respected human rights activist, who celebrated her 90th birthday earlier this year.

Dorothy Height, whose public service career spans over 65 years, has created an enviable legacy of advocacy and leadership in the cause of social justice for the whole nation, and particularly in her advocacy for the needs and rights of women, children, and families. She has constantly inspired others, from the poor to world leaders, to achieve at the highest level. As an advisor to Presidents through their First Ladies, Dr. Height has effected significant change in the lives of not only African-American women, but all women and their loved ones. She counseled Eleanor Roosevelt and prodded President Eisenhower to desegregate the nation's schools. She pressed President Johnson to appoint black women to sub-cabinet posts. As one of the "Big Six" civil rights leaders, she was the only woman at the table when Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and others made plans for the civil rights movement.

Dr. Height's many achievements and her distinguished service to the Nation and world has earned her over 50 awards and honors from local and State governments as well as the Federal Government, including the following:

In 1965, she received the John F. Kennedy Memorial Award from the National Council of Jewish Women.

For her contributions in interfaith, interracial and ecumenical movements for over thirty years, she was awarded the Ministerial Interfaith Association Award in 1969.

In 1968, she received the Lovejoy Award, the highest recognition by the Grand Lodge. Elks of the World for outstanding contribution to human relations.

In 1974, Ladies Home Journal named her "Woman of the Year" in recognition of her work for human rights;

The Congressional Black Caucus presented her with the William L. Dawson Award for decades of public service to people of color and particularly women.

For her tireless efforts on behalf of the less fortunate, President Ronald Reagan presented Dr. Height the Citizens Medal Award for distinguished service in 1989, the year she also received the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Freedom Medal from the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute.

In 1994, President Bill Clinton presented her with the Presidential Medal of Freedom Award.

Other awards include:

1993 Springarn Medal from the NAACP;

1993 Induction into the National Women's Hall of Fame;

1990 Oleander Foundation's Generous Heart Award;

1990 Camille Cosby World of Children Award;

1987 Essence Award;

1990 Steller Award.

Dorothy Height has sought no reward, because her monumental achievements were comfort and compensation enough. But this Congress and the nation owe her a debt of gratitude and should commission a Gold Medal for all her contributions. In her own words, 'I want to be remembered as someone who used herself and anything she could touch to work for justice and freedom. I want to be remembered as one who tried.'

It is with knowledge of your enthusiastic support of these noble causes that we respectfully request your endorsement of this measure. Please contact Alice Holmes at 202-225-7086.

HONORING THE STATE OF ISRAEL
ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 54TH
INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 2002

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the State of Israel and join in sending our good wishes to the people of Israel, on occasion of Israel's 54th year of independence. Regrettably, commemoration of this important milestone comes at one of the darkest and most isolated points in Israel's 54-year history. All over Israel, the traditional celebratory activities have been canceled due to increased security risks due to an unprecedented wave of suicide bombings that has struck almost every corner of the country since the intifada commenced.

Mr. Speaker, every year Israelis stand and memorialize the soldiers who have given their lives so that Israelis can continue to live free in their land, and the next day Israelis celebrate their independence. It is no coincidence that Israel's Memorial Day and Independence Day are observed side-by-side. For far too many years in Israel's history, death and independence have been inexorably linked. Only on Independence Day during the nearly disastrous Yom Kippur War of 1973 do Israelis recall being so threatened, and even then the fighting was among soldiers at the front who could be reasonably certain their wives and children were not in imminent danger.

Mr. Speaker, in a recently-published poll conducted by Israel's largest daily newspaper, Yediot Aharonot, 53% Israelis said they would be afraid to celebrate Independence Day in an

open public place and definitely would not do so. Living with the threat of terror is a new reality for America after September 11th. Israelis have had to live with the threat of violence almost every day, which has intensified since January 2002.

Mr. Speaker, the breakdown of the peace process in the Middle East and the recent escalation of violence should be a matter of great concern to the United States. The United States' close friendship with Israel dates back to May 14, 1948, when President Harry S. Truman announced our recognition of this new nation, within moments of its declaring independence. Since that time, the United States has, time-and-again, offered its support to Israel in its struggle to survive and has played in advancing the peace process. As history has shown, strong U.S. leadership, particularly from the President, is necessary if there is to be any progress toward Mideast peace. That is why Presidents Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, Bush, Clinton and now Bush, have all involved themselves in the quest for an end to the conflict. Today, the challenge is to help guide Israel and its Palestinian neighbors back on the path for peace.

Mr. Speaker, on this important day, I think it is instructive to look back at what the late Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said, when he received his Nobel Peace Prize in 1994, to understand Israel's struggle for peace. "We will pursue the course of peace with determination and fortitude. We will not let up. We will not give in. Peace will triumph over all its enemies, because the alternative is grimmer for us all. And we will prevail."

Mr. Speaker, my greatest hope for Israel on its 54th Day of Independence is the realization of its greatest hope—to live in peace with its neighbors with security for its people.

NEW THOUGHTS TO MEET THE
CHALLENGES ON TERRORISM

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 2002

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, this Saturday, thousands of American citizens will gather in Washington, DC to challenge the open-ended war the United States is now waging. They are right to do so, and the broader American public would do well to listen.

Congress authorized a police action to apprehend the conspirators behind the September 11 attack. Congress did not declare war because the President did not ask Congress to declare war. Yet, the Administration is conducting itself as if it were engaged in a declared war, sending military special operations forces to many new countries and ramping up defense spending. The Administration's budget contains real, inflation-adjusted spending increases only for military spending. Non-military spending is projected to remain flat, and funding for many important programs is decreased, in spite of growing unmet needs. The list of national priorities from which the Administration has taken away federal funds includes education, housing for the elderly, health care, and transportation.

This war footing will ultimately make the world a more dangerous place. Already, the Administration has derailed efforts to negotiate